Introduction to the Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR)

http://tiny.cc/amrtutorial

http://amr.isi.edu/

Why abstract?

- English provides many ways to express even simple ideas.
 - Too many to simply write down a few rules to characterize, e.g., paraphrase alternations.
- For many NLP applications, we want to abstract away from the details of English grammar.
 - What is deeper than syntax? Semantics!

But hasn't this been done before?

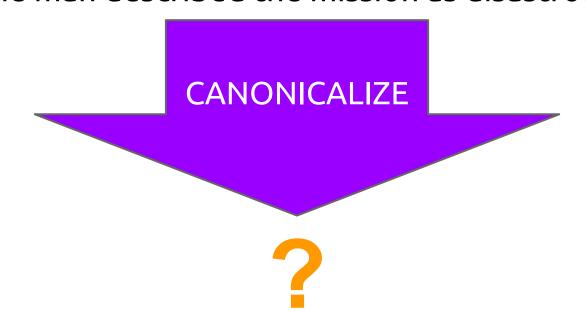
- Long tradition in linguistics and CL of formalizing semantics.
- The key insights behind AMR:
 - (1) statistical NLP needs a semantic representation that is practical for large-scale human annotation (sembanking)
 - What is practical? **limited canonicalization**
 - (2) many crucial aspects of meaning can be captured with broad coverage in a single data structure

The man described the mission as a disaster.

The man's description of the mission: disaster.

As the man described it, the mission was a disaster.

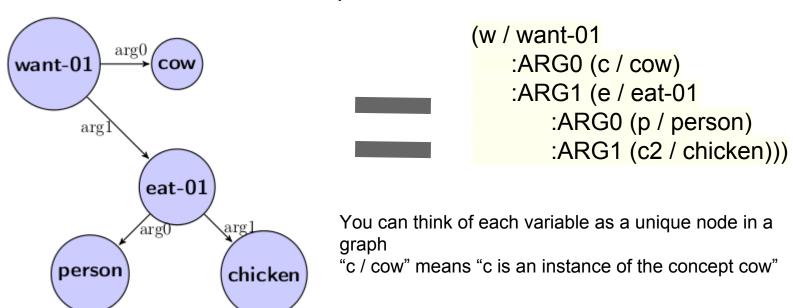
The man described the mission as disastrous.



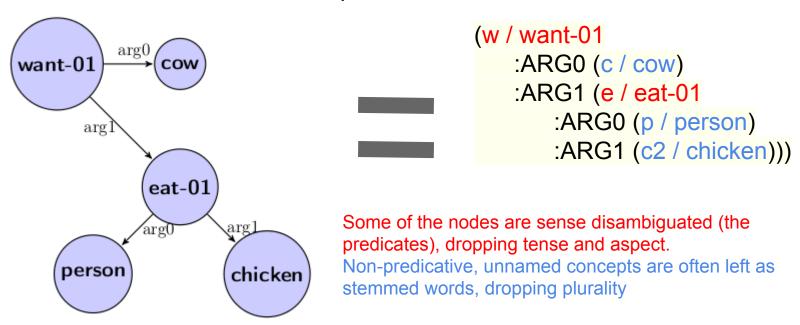
Roadmap for Part I of the tutorial

- Fundamentals of the representation
 - how AMR graphs are structured to represent concepts and relations
- Hands-on annotation practice
 - the annotation tool, simple examples
- Survey of linguistic/semantic phenomena
- Comparison to other representations
- Annotation practice
 - more realistic examples

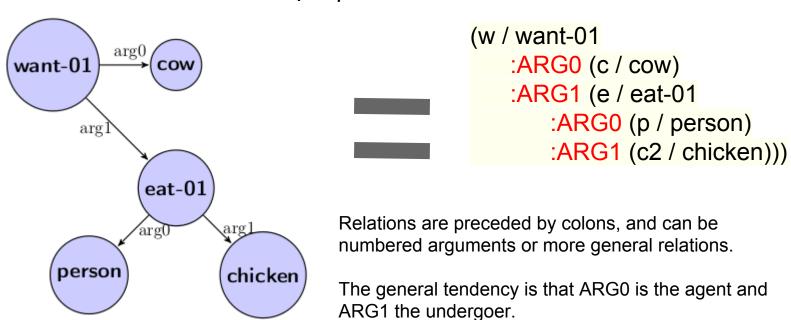
"Cows want people to eat chicken."

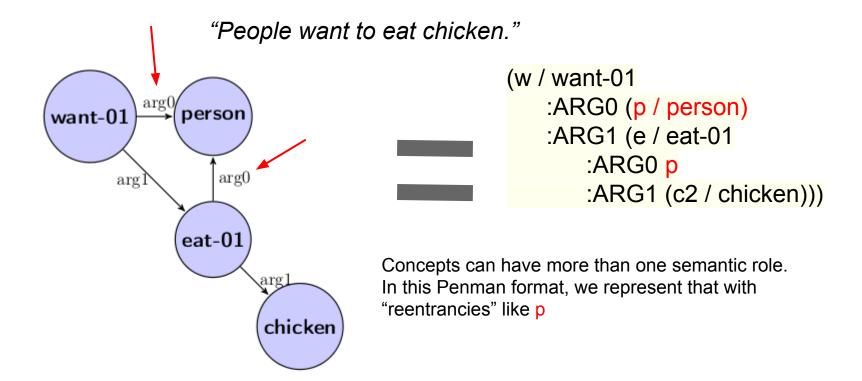


"Cows want people to eat chicken."

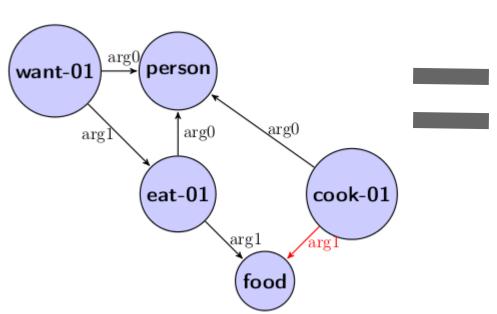


"Cows want people to eat chicken."





"People want to eat food that they cooked themselves"



```
(w / want-01

:ARG0 (p / person)

:ARG1 (e / eat-01

:ARG0 p

:ARG1 (f / food

:ARG1-of (c / cook-01

:ARG0 p))))
```

For things like relative clauses, the predicate modifies the term using an inverse relation, arg1-of. This is just a notational trick to represent the graph as a tree.

Lexicon: what "want-01" and "arg0" mean

- AMR concepts are not the same as strings!
- We use an inventory of conceptual frames: the

unified PropBank rolesets.

 The numbered (core) semantic roles are specific to each roleset. Lemma: leave (v)

leave.01 - "move away from"

- ARG0: entity leaving theme
- ARG1: place, person, or thing left source, location
- ARG2: attribute of arg1

more

<u>leave.02</u> - "give"

- · ARG0: giver / leaver agent
- ARG1: thing given theme
- ARG2: benefactive / given-to location, recipient, beneficiary

Lexicon: what "want-01" and "arg0" mean

Annotators see a list that shows all possible rolesets and what each numbered argument means.

There are PropBank numbered arguments (what you see in Ontonotes)

OntoNotes 4.0 frames

Generated by Ulf's script on-frame-xml2html.pl on Wed Jan 16, 2013 at 19:25:56

Lemma: obey (v)

Note: Frames file for 'obey' based on sentences in wsj. No Verbnet entry, Framenet class Compliance.

obey.01 - "obey, follow the rules" ✓

- ARG0: obeyer
- ARG1: rule or rule-giver

more

Lexicon: What it doesn't cover

- This only applies to predicates!
- Non-predicative terms are not sensedisambiguated.

```
(Excluding named entities)
```

```
(o / obey-01
:ARG0 (w / we)
:ARG1 (I / law
:topic (t / thermodynamics))
:location (h / house
:mod (t2 / this)))
```

Lexicon: what "want-01" and "arg0" mean

These rolesets contain many parts of speech:

fear-01

My fear of snakes
I am fearful of snakes
I fear snakes
I'm afraid of snakes

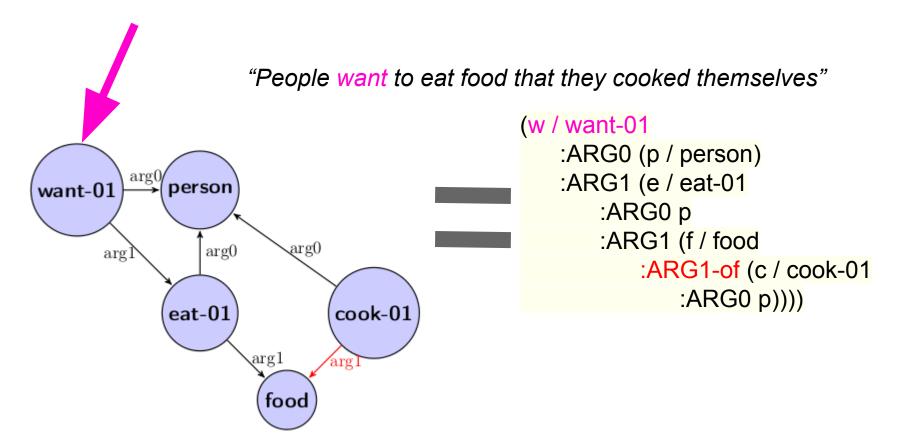
BUT we only link between the same sense when etymologically related.

fear-01

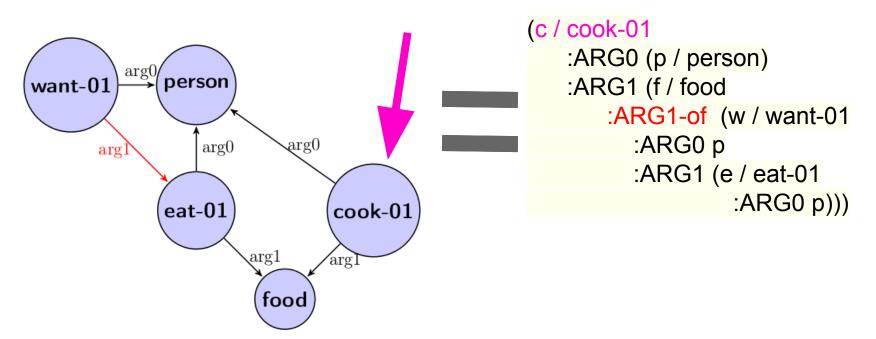


I'm terrified of snakes Snakes creep me out

- The focus is the concept at the top of the annotation.
 - Must be a root (no incoming edges).
- Which concept should focused?
 - Conceptually, the main assertion of (the declarative version of) the sentence.
 - Linguistically, usually the main predication of the sentence.



"People cook the food that they want to eat themselves"



```
"People want to eat food
                                         "People cook the food
that they cooked themselves"
                                         that they want to eat themselves"
(w / want-01
                                         (c / cook-01
   :ARG0 (p / person)
                                             :ARG0 (p / person)
                                            :ARG1 (f / food
   :ARG1 (e / eat-01
       :ARG0 p
                                                :ARG1-of (w / want-01
       :ARG1 (f / food
                                                   :ARG0 p
           :ARG1-of (c / cook-01
                                                   :ARG1 (e / eat-01
              :ARG0 p))))
                                                            :ARG0 p)))
```

Propositionally, these are the same! But different emphasis.

Attribution of properties

Depending on focus, we use special roles : mod or :domain (these are inverses of each other).

```
the big house
There is a big house.
                                        The house is big.
 (h / house
                                        (b / big
   :mod (b / big))
                                           :domain (h / house))
seeing the big house
                                       seeing that the house is big
seeing the house that is big
(s / see-01
                                        (s / see-01
   :ARG1 (h / house
                                           :ARG1 (b / big
             :mod (b / big)))
                                                     :domain (h / house)))
```

Attribution of properties

Also for attributive/predicative demonstratives and nominals:

Canonicalization

(d / describe-01

:arg0 (m / man)

:arg1 (m2 / mission)

:arg2 (d / disaster))

AMR design principles: Morphosyntactic sugar is considered

Morphosyntactic sugar is considered unhealthy.

Deep is better than shallow. (Paraphrases should have the same AMR.)

The man described the mission as a disaster.

The man's description of the mission: disaster.

As the man described it, the mission was a disaster.

The man described the mission as disastrous

- Non-core arguments: not predicate-specific (not listed in lexicon)
- The boy wanted to go yesterday

```
(w / want-01
:arg0 (b / boy)
:arg1 (g / go-01
:arg0 b)
:time (y / yesterday)
```

 Relations that aren't predicate-specific are handled with a large inventory of non-core semantic roles.

:time	:location	:purpose	:frequency
:destination	:subset	:part	:manner

...and many more! The full lists is in the handout

- There is also another kind of numbered argument for things where the number means nothing other than order: op#
- Apples and Bananas

```
(a / and
:op1 (a2 / apple)
:op2 (b / banana))
```

- There is also another kind of numbered argument for things where the number means nothing other than order: op#
- Competition between lions, tigers and bears

```
(b / between
:op1 (l / lion)
:op2 (t / tiger)
:op3 (b2 /bear))
```

Constants

String	Numeric	
name :op1 "Yoda" :time "16:30"	:quant 5	
Named	+/-	
monetary-quantity :unit dollar :mode imperative	:polarity - :polite +	

Constants vs. Concepts

- A concept is a type. For every concept node there will be ≥1 instance variable/node.
 - An instance can be mentioned multiple times.
 - Multiple instances of the same concept can be mentioned.
- Constants are singleton nodes: no variable, just a value. Specific non-core roles allow constant values.

Negation

I am not a crook.

```
(c / crook
   :domain (i / i)
   :polarity -)
```

Negation

Negation goes where it is logical:

```
I don't believe we've met.
(meaning: 'I believe we haven't met.')
(b / believe-01
    :ARG0 (i / i)
    :ARG1 (m / meet-02 :polarity -
             :ARG0 (w / we)))
```

Negation by morphology

an unhappy cat

```
(c / cat
    :mod (h / happy :polarity -))
illegible writing
(t / thing
   :ARG1-of (w / write-01
```

:manner (1 / legible :polarity -)))

 general concepts are simply stemmed (drop plurality, articles): "the boys" → (b / boy)

 The names themselves are represented as many string constants, linked to a "name" node

 general concepts are simply stemmed (drop plurality, articles): "the boys" → (b / boy)

• This "name" node has a name relation to the concept itself, which is from an ontology or the sentence.

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```
"Viacom"

(c / company
:name (n / name :op1 "Viacom"))
:wiki Viacom

"Barack Obama"

(p / person
:name (n / name :op1 "Barack" :op2 "Obama")
:wiki Barack_Obama
```

 After the main annotation pass, we also add "wikification", unique IDs for that term. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ + :wiki label = its page)

- The ontology is used *only if you do not have a more specific term in the sentence.*
- If a specific descriptor is present, we just use that word instead of finding the closest concept in the ontology.

```
"Ford"
(v / vehicle
:name (n / name :op1 "Ford"))

"Ford truck"
(t / truck
:name (n / name :op1 "Ford"))
```

Ontology is large (100+ types) and hierarchical:

```
Thing Product city; city-district; county; state; province ...

vehicle; ship; aircraft; aircraft-type...
```

- There are also special entities that allow us to do very structured annotation of measurable quantities.
- "Tuesday the 19th" "five bucks" "\$3 / gallon"

```
(d/ date-entity
:weekday Tuesday
:day 19
```

```
(m /monetary-quantity :unit dollar :quant 5)
```

```
(r/ rate-entity-91
:arg1 (m / monetary-quantity
:unit dollar
:quant 3 )
:arg2 (v / volume-quantity
:unit gallon
:quant 1 )
```

Entities

- There are also special entities that allow us to do very structured annotation of measurable quantities.
- "Tuesday the 19th" "five bucks" "\$3 / gallon"

```
(d/ date-entity(m /monetary-quantity(r/ rate-entity-91:weekday Tuesday:unit dollar:arg1 (m / monetary-quantity:day 19:quant 5):unit dollar:quant 3 ):arg2 (v / volume-quantity:unit gallon:quant 1 )
```

Designed to be similar to TIMEX normalization

Pronouns

- Pronouns with antecedents in the sentence are just re-entrancies.
- Pronouns without antecedents in the sentence are just the pronoun (made nominative)

John asked Mary to tutor him

```
(a / ask-02

:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "John"))

:ARG1 (t / tutor-01

:ARG0 p2

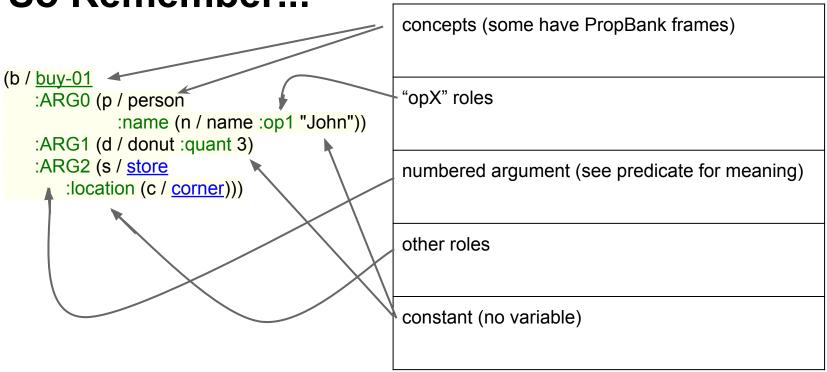
:ARG1 p)

:ARG2 (p2 / person :name (n2 / name :op1 "Mary")))
```

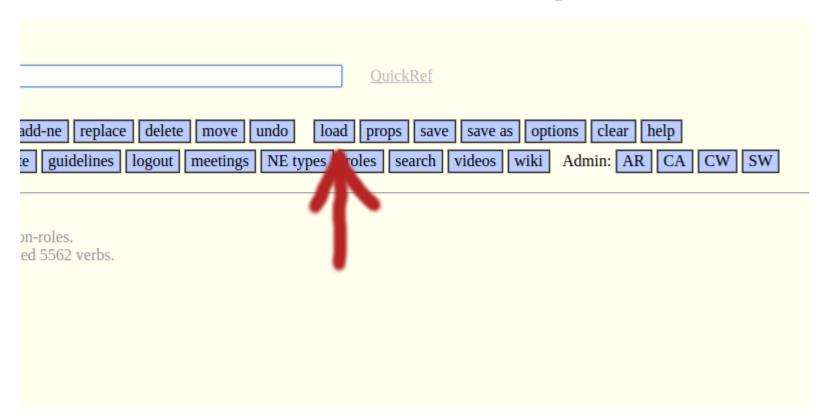
Mary was asked to tutor him

(a / ask-02
:ARG1 (t / tutor-01
:ARG0 p2
:ARG1 (h / he))
:ARG2 (p2 / person :name (n2 / name :op1
"Mary")))

So Remember...



http://tiny.cc/amreditor



We are loading the "NAACL-tutorial" sentences.

delete move undo load props save save as options clear help logout meetings NE types roles search videos wiki Admin: AR CA CW	SW
rman Workset: Load workset at ISI	
name (without path): .txt Load file at ISI	
.Uv1.7 ▼ Snt. ID: Load ON Sentence	
File API.	

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" We'll walk slowly through a first sentence.

```
(l / like-01
:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "Tim"))
:ARG1 (r / represent-01
:ARG0 p
:ARG1 (s / semantics)
:manner (a / abstract)))

Enter text command:

Last command:

r :manner abstract

Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exit/load prop
```

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" "top" is how to make the root

empty AMR

Enter text command: top like

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" click on "like" to see senses



"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" adding new relations: variable :role concept

J. J
(l / <u>like-01</u>)
Enter text command: 1 :arg1 represent
Last command: replace concept at l with like-01
Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exit/load
Workset movie-lines 10/20 edinburgh_1001.10 Save and load next Discard and load next
More: check copy dict diff generate guidelines logout meetings NE types roles

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" Everything after the third term is automatically added as a name

(l / <u>like-01</u> :ARG1 (r / <u>represent-01</u>))	
Enter text command: 1 :arg0 person Tim	(
Last command: replace concept at r with represent.01	
Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exit	/load
Workset movie-lines 10/20 edinburgh_1001.10 Save and load next Discard and load	id nex
More check copy diet diff generate guidelines logout meetings NF types	roles

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly" Reentrancies are variable :role variable

```
(l / like-01
:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "Tim"))
:ARG1 (r / represent-01))

Enter text command: r :arg0 p

Last command: l :arg0 person Tim

Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo

Workset movie-lines 10/20 edinburgh_1001.10 Save and load next Discard
```

"Tim likes to represent semantics abstractly"

Add the rest and "save and load next"

(l / <u>like-01</u> :ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "Tim")) :ARG1 (r / <u>represent-01</u> :ARG0 p :ARG1 (s / semantics) :manner (a / <u>abstract</u>)))	
Enter text command:	QuickRef
Last command: r :manner abstract	
Or select an action template: top add add-ne replace delete move undo exi	t/load props
Workset movie-lines 10/Lu Save and load next Discard and lo	ad next Next

Advanced Topics!

Throwing away light semantics

 For light verbs, copular constructions, and a range of linguistic patterns that are mostly syntactic, we replace them with what they really mean.

```
"John is nice"

(n / nice-41
:arg1 (p/ person :name (n /name op1 "John"))

(We don't allow "to be" at all!)

"John took a bath"

(b / bathe-01
:arg0 (p / person :name (name :op1 "John"))

all light verbs convert to the nearest verbal sense.
```

Reification replaces "to be"

- Some things involve light semantics, but don't have their own frame:
 "I think John is at the store."
- We know what the semantics is doing though! It's asserting a location that John is at!
- Non-core semantic roles can be converted into predicates using reification. The predicate version of location is "be-located-at-91"

Reification

This allows us to replace "to be" with what is really being claimed:

Joint military exercises are also part of the ICI.

```
(h / have-part-91

:ARG1 (t / thing

:name (n / name :op1 "ICI"))

:ARG2 (e / exercise

:mod (m / military)

:mod (j / joint))

:mod (a / also))
```

It also lets you add modifiers to the semantic roles themselves

The executions are often public and almost always by hanging.

```
(a3 / and
:op1 (h2 / have-manner-91
:ARG1 (e / execute-01)
:ARG2 (p / public)
:frequency (o / often))
:op2 (h3 / have-instrument-91
:ARG1 e
:ARG2 (h / hang-01)
:time (a / always
:mod (a2 / almost))))
```

More Special Predicates

What about "John is a pilot for Southwest"?

We have predicates for organizational and relational predicates!

```
have-org-role.91 - "X is in
organization Y as Z"
```

ARG0: office holder **ARG1:** organization

ARG2: office held (title)

ARG3: description of responsibility

```
(h / have-org-role-91

:ARG0 (p / person :name (n / name :op1 "John"))

:ARG1 (c / company :name (n2 / name :op1 "Southwest"))

:ARG2 (p2 / pilot))
```

Decomposition into concepts

Other contexts for introducing concepts that don't have words in the data: decomposing complex morphology.

```
A shoe salesman
```

```
(p / person
:ARG0-of (s / sell-01
:ARG1 (s2 / shoe)))
```

The Indian Government

```
(g / government-organization
:ARG0-of (g2 / govern-01
:ARG1 (c / country :name (n / name :op1 "India"))))
```

Decomposition into concepts

Other contexts for introducing concepts that don't have words in the data: decomposing complex morphology.



Copying

One word can result in multiple predicates!

I ate a sandwich on Thursday and sushi on Friday.

Set Operations

We have a predicate "include-91" for sets

I ate five of the 12 donuts" is processed as "I ate five donut out of a set of 12 donuts"

This is useful with our "set" predicate

"I ate 5 of the 12 donuts"

```
(e / eat-01
:ARG0 (i / i)
:ARG1 (d / donut :quant 5
:ARG1-of (i2 / include-91
:ARG2 (d2 / donut :quant 12))))
```

include.91 - "subset"

ARG1: subset (or member)

ARG2: superset

ARG3: relative size of subset

compared to superset

Set Operations

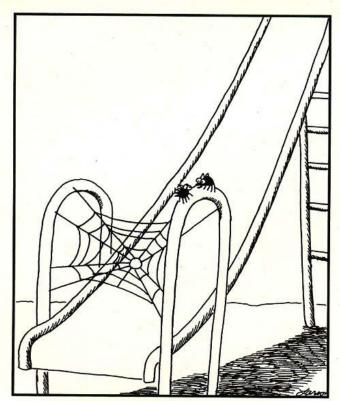
10% of smokers die of lung cancer.

```
(i / include-91
   :ARG1 (p / person
                                                        Of the set of people who
                                                        smoke....
        :ARG1-of (d / die-01
            :ARG1-of (c2 / cause-01
                                                           10% of that set ...
                :ARG0 (c / cancer
                    :mod (I / lung)))))
                                                         are people who die
    :ARG2 (p2 / person
                                                        because of lung cancer
        :ARG0-of (s2 / smoke-02))
    :ARG3 (p3 / percentage-entity :value 10))
```

Many small additional patterns

- "Hallucinating" a concept usually requires precedent in the AMR dictionary.
- We have patterns for how to handle many specific issues.
- For example, "like" can be "resemble-01":

```
If we pull this off, we'll eat like kings
(e / eat-01
:ARG0 (w / we)
:ARG1-of (r / resemble-01
:ARG2 (e2 / eat-01
:ARG0 (k / king)))
:condition (p / pull-03
:ARG0 w
:ARG1 (t / this)))
```



"If we pull this off, we'll eat like kings."

Let's look at real data

```
(n / need-01
     :ARG0 (w / we)
     :ARG1 (b / borrow-01
         :ARG0 w
         :ARG1 (p / percentage-entity :value 55
             :ARG1-of (i / include-91
                :ARG2 (p2 / price
                    :mod (h / hammer))))
         :time (u / until
             :op1 (p3 / possible
                :domain (g / get-01
                    :ARG0 w
                    :ARG1 (p4 / permit-01
                        :ARG1 (p5 / plan-01)
                        :purpose-of (r / restore-01)
                        :ARG0-of (a / allow-01
                           :ARG1 (m / mortgage-01
                                   :ARG0 w))))))))
a.
```

We need to borrow 55% of the hammer price until we can get planning permission for restoration which will allow us to get a mortgage

Nearly identical AMRs: we need a loan for 55% of the hammer price of the full hammer price, we just need to borrow 55%

Let's look at real data

```
(n / need-01
     :ARG0 (w / we)
     :ARG1 (b / borrow-01
         :ARG0 w
         :ARG1 (p / percentage-entity :value 55
             :ARG1-of (i / include-91
                :ARG2 (p2 / price
                    :mod (h / hammer))))
         :time (u / until
             :op1 (p3 / possible
                :domain (g / get-01
                    :ARG0 w
                    :ARG1 (p4 / permit-01
                        :ARG1 (p5 / plan-01)
                        :purpose-of (r / restore-01)
                        :ARG0-of (a / allow-01
                           :ARG1 (m / mortgage-01
                                   :ARG0 w))))))))
a.
```

We need to borrow 55% of the hammer price until we can get planning permission for restoration which will allow us to get a mortgage

identical AMRs until such time as we get permission to plan for restoration up until we get permits for restoration planning

Let's look at real data

```
(n / need-01
   :ARG0 (w / we)
   :ARG1 (b / borrow-01
       :ARG0 w
       :ARG1 (p / percentage-entity :value 55
           :ARG1-of (i / include-91
              :ARG2 (p2 / price
                  :mod (h / hammer))))
       :time (u / until
           :op1 (p3 / possible
              :domain (g / get-01
                  :ARG0 w
                  :ARG1 (p4 / permit-01
                      :ARG1 (p5 / plan-01)
                      :purpose-of (r / restore-01)
                      :ARG0-of (a / allow-01
                         :ARG1 (m / mortgage-01
                                 :ARG0 w))))))))
```

a.

We need to borrow 55% of the hammer price until we can get planning permission for restoration which will allow us to get a mortgage

similar AMRs permits allowing us to get a mortage

Data

- Release 4 has 18,779 AMRs total. (LDC2014E41)
- Release 5 will include :
 - wikification
 - o more AMRs
 - more quality control
 - o (pretty much) no cycles
- Small (100-AMR) sets of Czech and Chinese AMRs have been annotated (conversion of Prague tectogrammatical annotation is under development)
- PropBank releases will soon all be converted to AMR style (mapping nominalizations to verbs, etc) and re-released.

Comparison - Semantic Roles

AMR: 70+ non-core roles, many verb-sense specific roles (up to 5 args/roleset, more than 10,000 rolesets)

FrameNet: large inventory of frame-specific roles

VerbNet: inventory of thematic roles

Groningen Meaning Bank: VerbNet inventory

Most others: small inventory of roles (agent, theme, etc.)

Comparison - Sense Lexicon

Groningen Meaning Bank: (automatic) WordNet synsets FrameNet/UCCA: Mark senses by frame/script, not lemma

AMR /PropBank: coarse-grained senses (get high ITA)

Prague Dependency TB: valency lexicon rolesets

Most others: undisambiguated concepts as predicates

Comparison - Entities

AMR: Rich named entity ontology (100+ types), wikification

GALE/Ontonotes Annotations: 29 types, 64 subtypes
Groningen Meaning Bank: 7 NE types
Domain-specific (ACE/UMLS/etc.): rich; not all entities

Others: no entity typing

Comparison - Alignment with text

Deepbank; Groningen Meaning Bank: Semantics linked up to a theory of its derivation from syntax (HPSG; CCG)

PropBank, Semantic Treebank: grounded in PTB Most others: Some link to words in sentence

AMR: No alignment to text (plan to release a few alignments)

Comparison - Logic/Scope/Entailments

Deepbank; Groningen Meaning Bank: Semantics grounds out in logical formalisms (DRT and MRS, respectively)

AMR entailment: linkage between its lexicon and VerbNet may allow rich decomposition

AMR scope: No scope of quantification

Comparison - Size and Quality

AMR: 18,779 sentences, goes beyond newswire, fully manual **Prague Dependency TB:** WSJ in Czech and English, manual

Deepbank; Groningen Meaning Bank: Large; automatic parses with human correction/feedback.

UCCA: fully manual, 160k tokens

UNL:

Rich semantic systems with little affiliated data: TMR, LCS,

Ancillary Slides

	AMR	PropBank (PTB/OntoNot es)	FrameNet	MRS (often =HPSG)	GMB & CCGbank	Prague CEDT	TMR
Rich Verbal Lexicon	yes	Yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Semantic Roles	lexically specified	lexically specific	frame specific	small inventory	DRT or FOL	small inventory w/ valence lexicon	yes
Entity Ontology	yes	no	no	no	no?		yes
Full-sentence description	yes	no	no	?	no?		
Align to words	No	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Project onto syntactic representation?	no	PTBII	no	HPSG	CCG	functional dependency syntax	HPSG
Scoped quantifiers	no	no	no	?	?	?	?
Lexical coverage on new data	good coverage	strong	moderate	good unless you need new rules for a new domain	n/a	strong (Vallex; now mapped to AMR inventory	low (extremely fine-grained lexicon)
Lexical generalization	stem	stem	network	?	?	?	?
Annotated data							